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-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

**CITY OF HARTFORD INTENSIFIES EFFORT
TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE**

(June 22, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez and Police Chief Patrick Harnett announced today an enhanced effort to reduce gun violence in the city. "The Northeast Violence Reduction Initiative" will devote additional city and federal law enforcement resources to target the Hartford neighborhoods where the majority of shooting incidents have occurred. The effort will combine a highly visible presence by HPD conditions units, which will include additional foot and bike patrols and more traffic enforcement.

"The number of shooting incidents in specific neighborhoods requires us to redouble our efforts, target more resources and aggressively pursue suspects in some neighborhoods," Mayor Perez stated. "We also expect to hear soon from the Governor on our request for long-term State Police assistance."

While major crime overall in the city has declined to its lowest level in five years, the number of shootings has increased from last year. Mayor Perez says, "Anyone who uses a gun to settle an argument is going to jail."

Hartford Police Chief Patrick Harnett states, "This multi-agency effort is not new--- it is a natural outgrowth of our Neighborhood Policing Plan. The plan allows us to quickly identify emerging trends and shift resources to key neighborhoods to target problems while maintaining levels of service to other parts of the city. We are going to aggressively pursue those who are carrying illegal guns in this city and bring them to justice."